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Subject: Flint Readout 06/22/16

[Bill Schuette announces Flint water crisis lawsuits](#)

Detroit Free Press [video clip]

[Michigan Attorney General Sues 2 Companies Over Flint Water Crisis](#)

By Mitch Smith & Julie Bosman, New York Times 06/22/16

Michigan's attorney general sued two companies on Wednesday who he said imperiled public health in Flint and contributed to the city's crisis of lead-tainted drinking water. The companies, Veolia North America and Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, were hired to advise the city about

using the Flint River as its drinking water source. The companies did not sound alarms about lead contamination and were complicit in the series of events that caused lead to leach from pipes and poison children, said Bill Schuette, the attorney general.

Mich. AG sues 2 companies in Flint water crisis

By Mike Householder & David Eggert, AP for Boston Globe 06/22/16

Michigan's attorney general filed a lawsuit Wednesday against two companies, saying they caused and exacerbated Flint's lead-tainted water crisis. Attorney General Bill Schuette filed the suit in Genesee County Circuit Court in Flint against Veolia North America and Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam. Schuette said in a news release that the companies' "fraudulent and dangerous recommendations made a bad situation worse."

Documents cited in Schuette's claims against companies

By Detroit News 06/22/16 3:26 PM

Clickable list of documents cited in the lawsuit.

Michigan attorney general: Companies botched job in Flint water crisis

By Matthew Dolan & Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 06/22/16 2:45 PM

A global water company and Texas-based engineering firm "botched the job" in Flint, helping to send the city into an ongoing drinking water crisis that has harmed public health and caused untold damages to the state, Michigan's attorney general said at a news conference Wednesday. The comments from state Attorney General Bill Schuette came after his office filed a lawsuit early Wednesday against water company Veolia North America and engineering firm Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, as well as several related companies in connection with lead and other contaminants in Flint's drinking water supply, alleging the firms' "acts and omission constitute professional negligence, fraud and public nuisance."

Schuette: Firms made Flint's water crisis 'worse'

By Jonathan Oosting, Detroit News 06/22/16 2:20 PM

Attorney General Bill Schuette on Wednesday sued a pair of engineering firms for allegedly

allowing the Flint water contamination crisis to “occur, continue and worsen,” a claim the companies denied and vowed to fight. Schuette filed the civil lawsuit in Genesee County Circuit Court against Veolia North America and Lockwood Andrews & Newnam (LAN). The suit also names LAN’s Nebraska-based parent company, Leo A. Daly Co.

Michigan AG suing 2 water engineering firms who 'botched' Flint water

By Halston Herrera, Click on Detroit 06/22/16 2:06 PM

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette has filed a civil lawsuit against two water engineering firms for alleged professional negligence and fraud in the lead poisoning of Flint's water. The lawsuit against Veolia and Lockwood, Andrews & Newman (LAN) was filed Wednesday in Genesee County Circuit Court. “Many things went tragically wrong in Flint, and both criminal conduct and civil conduct caused harm to the families of Flint and to the taxpayers of Michigan,” said Schuette. “In Flint, Veolia and LAN were hired to do a job and failed miserably. Their fraudulent and dangerous recommendations made a bad situation worse.”

Michigan sues companies for allowing Flint water crisis to 'occur and worsen'

By Ryan Felton, Guardian 06/22/16 1:44 PM

Michigan’s attorney general on Wednesday filed a wide-ranging lawsuit against companies linked to the Flint water crisis, saying their role caused the debacle to “occur, continue, and worsen”. The lawsuit pinning at least some blame on corporations for Flint’s lead contamination unleashed a bitter he-said, she-said battle between the state and Texas-based Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam (LAN).

Engineering firm sued for role in Flint Water Crisis has connections to Jackson

By Taylor DesOrmeau, MLIVE 06/22/16 1:39 PM

Veolia North America is one of two engineering firms named in a civil lawsuit filed by Attorney General Bill Schuette on Wednesday, June 22. Veolia is being held accountable for "professional negligence and fraud, which caused Flint's lead poisoning problem to continue and worsen, and created an ongoing public nuisance," according to a press release from the Attorney General. In Flint, Veolia was given a one-month contract in February 2015 to address the quality of the city's drinking water.

'They Made It Worse': Michigan Sues 2 Companies Over Flint Crisis

By Merrit Kennedy, NPR 06/22/16 1:11 PM

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette says his office has filed a civil lawsuit against two companies involved in Flint's lead-tainted water crisis. The damages could reach hundreds of millions of dollars, he says. "The more I discover and decipher," Schuette says, "the angrier I become. ... People committed crimes, and a global company and a Texas company botched the job of providing safe drinking water."

Michigan attorney general sues France's Veolia in Flint water crisis

By Ben Klayman, Reuters 06/22/16 1:10 PM

The Michigan attorney general on Wednesday sued French water company Veolia and a Texas firm for "botching" their roles in the city of Flint's drinking water crisis that exposed residents to dangerously high lead levels. Attorney General Bill Schuette said at a news conference in Flint that the civil lawsuit was filed in Genesee County Circuit Court against Veolia Environnement SA (VIE.PA) and Houston-based engineering services firm Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam (LAN).

Attorney General Bill Schuette sues companies in Flint water crisis

By Matthew Dolan & Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 06/22/16 12:57 PM

The Michigan attorney general filed a lawsuit Wednesday morning against a water company and an engineering firm, plus several related companies, in connection with the Flint drinking water crisis, alleging the firms' "acts and omission constitute professional negligence, fraud and public nuisance." Attorney General Bill Schuette's lawsuit names seven corporate defendants in all, but according to court records they are all related to two firms that did work for the City of Flint.

Michigan attorney general charges firms he claims 'botched' work on Flint water

By Brady Dennis, Washington Post 06/22/16 12:00 PM

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette (R) on Wednesday filed civil charges against two engineering firms that he said "botched" their work on Flint's water supply system, contributing to the city's ongoing lead-polluted water crisis. The complaint filed Wednesday in a Genesee County Circuit Court targets Veolia North American, part of a global corporation that specializes in operating water and sewer systems for municipalities, which contracted with Flint in early 2015 to help with its drinking water quality. It says the company later produced at least one

report saying that the city's drinking water met state and federal standards, despite growing complaints from residents about problems.

Michigan attorney general sues companies linked to Flint water crisis

By Kayla Ruble, VICE News 06/22/16 11:25 AM

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette has named several new targets in his investigation into the Flint water crisis, opening a civil lawsuit against several companies linked to the lead contamination of the city's water system. Schuette, who is leading the state's official investigation into the tainted water, announced the suit in a press conference on Wednesday morning, saying his office was "pulling the wagon of justice for Flint." The lawsuit targets seven companies in total, all of which are reportedly linked to work done by multi-national water company Veolia North America, international firm Leo A. Daly Co., and its American engineering subsidiary, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, all of which are named in the suit.

Update: State Attorney General Sues 3 Companies in Flint Water Mess

By Deadline Detroit 06/22/16 9:38 AM

Attorney General Bill Schuette filed a lawsuit Wednesday in the Flint water crisis against a water company and local engineering firm, alleging that their "acts and omission constitute professional negligence, fraud and public nuisance," the Free Press reports. The civil lawsuit filed in Flint in Genesee County Circuit Court and obtained by the Detroit Free Press accuses the companies of causing "the Flint Water Crisis to occur, continue and worsen," the lawsuit said. The companies listed as defendants are Veolia North America, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam and Leo A. Daly Co.

AG to announce civil lawsuit related to Flint water crisis

By Amanda Emery, MLIVE 06/21/16 11:26 PM

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette will be announcing civil charges Wednesday morning in a lawsuit related to the Flint water crisis. Schuette, along with Special Assistant Attorney General Noah Hall and the Flint Water Investigative Team are scheduled to make the announcement Wednesday, June 22 in Flint.

Engineering firms 'botched' Flint water studies, attorney general says

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 06/22/16 12:16 PM

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette said two engineering firms hired by the city "botched" their handling of Flint's water supply and helped lead to the city's water crisis. Schuette made the statement Wednesday, June 22, as he announced a civil lawsuit against Veolia North American and Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, which were hired to conduct engineering studies on the city's water system. "In Flint, Veolia and LAN were hired to do a job and failed miserably," Schuette said.

Michigan AG to file civil suit related to Flint's water crisis

By AP for WILX NBC 10 06/21/16 6:53 PM

Michigan's attorney general plans to announce civil charges related to Flint's lead-tainted water crisis. Attorney General Bill Schuette and members of his special investigative team have scheduled a Wednesday morning news conference in Flint to detail the lawsuit. Two months ago, the state filed criminal charges against two state environmental regulators and a city of Flint water employee.

Michigan AG Bill Schuette to announce civil suit in Flint water probe

Matthew Dolan & Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 06/21/16 8:15 PM

Attorney General Bill Schuette is to announce he is filing a civil lawsuit Wednesday arising from his Flint drinking water investigation, Schuette's office said late Tuesday. Schuette is to be joined at a 10 a.m. news conference at U-M Flint by Special Assistant Attorney General Noah Hall and members of his investigative team, which is led by Royal Oak attorney Todd Flood and Andrew Arena, the former Special Agent in Charge of the FBI office in Detroit.

State agencies refusing to hand over Flint water docs, investigator says

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 06/22/16 12:46 PM

Investigators say state agencies are refusing to hand over documents related to their Flint water crisis investigation. Todd Flood, who was appointed as a special prosecutor by Attorney General Bill Schuette, said Wednesday, June 22, that his investigators have run into roadblocks from agencies that have refused to turn over the materials he believes is necessary to advance his

criminal investigation.

Flint mayor to look into claims city-funded lawyers obstructing water probe

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 06/22/16 3:41 PM

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver said she would look into claims that attorneys paid by the city to represent employees are obstructing criminal investigations into the Flint water crisis. Local and state investigators have claimed that actions by attorneys being paid for with Flint funds are hampering their ability to get to the bottom of what caused the city's water woes. "I'm not supporting that at all, because we need to know what happened," Weaver said. "We deserve to know what happened."

Flint EM committed to join KWA year before council vote

By Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 06/22/16 2:25 PM

Former Flint emergency manager Michael Brown made a commitment in February 2012 – more than one year before the Flint City Council voted to join the project – that the city would purchase 20 million gallons of raw water daily from the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline, newly released records show. The Feb. 13, 2012, letter, on City of Flint letterhead, from Brown to Genesee County Drain Commissioner Jeff Wright, undermines repeated claims by the administration of Gov. Rick Snyder that it was a March 25, 2013, Flint City Council vote that started the chain of events that resulted in lead contamination of Flint's drinking water supply.

Detroit warned of financial risks for Flint joining KWA

By Ron Fonger, MLIVE 06/21/16 6:39 PM

A top Detroit water system official warned the state against allowing Flint to join the Karegnondi Water Authority more than three years ago, saying it posed an undue financial risk to the city, according to one of documents just released by Gov. Rick Snyder. A March 2013 email from Nicolette N. Bateson, chief financial officer for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, to former state treasurer Andy Dillon included the warning, saying the risk for the city would be "especially precarious" given Flint's shaky financial position.

Other News & Opinions

Zika, Flint, And The Uncertainties Of Emergency Preparedness

By Glen Mays, Health Affairs Blog 06/22/16

Ongoing Congressional debates concerning the spreading Zika virus provide the latest reminder about our national uncertainties in preparing for and responding to large-scale health emergencies. Storms, fires, industrial accidents, and infrastructure failures like the recent Flint water crisis add to the constellation of emergencies and “near misses” that threaten health and safety somewhere in the U.S. nearly every day. Ongoing Congressional debates concerning the spreading Zika virus provide the latest reminder about our national uncertainties in preparing for and responding to large-scale health emergencies. Storms, fires, industrial accidents, and infrastructure failures like the recent Flint water crisis add to the constellation of emergencies and “near misses” that threaten health and safety somewhere in the U.S. nearly every day.

How will the Flint crisis end for Snyder?

By Tom Perkins, Detroit Metro Times 06/22/16

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, it seemed to many, recently gloated over surviving the Flint water crisis. “The reports of my demise are overblown,” he told the audience June 1 at the Mackinac Policy Conference, before calling “negative” members of the press a bunch of “Eeyores.” He’s partly right. In April, the Michigan attorney general’s office announced the initial charges resulting from its investigation of the incompetence, cover-ups, deceit, and seemingly criminal stupidity that resulted in the Flint water crisis.

There’s still a need in Flint

By Eight West 06/22/16 12:10 PM

WOOD TV8 has been reporting on the Flint Water Crisis for months, including the need for donated water. Recently, Eva Aguirre Cooper went to Flint to find out how the donations are going and what they still need. There’s been a lot of work done to help the process but a final solution has not been implemented. In January, WOOD TV8 teamed up with Art Van Furniture and the Connecting with Community Partners to start Water For Flint, a water collection drive.

Largest blood lead study yet finds 'concern' in Newark kids

By Jessica Mazzola, NJ.com 06/22/16 8:15 AM

For the second time this year, concerns have been raised about children's exposure to lead in the state's largest city – this time thanks to a national study indicating high blood lead levels in Newark kids. According to statistics gathered by Quest Diagnostics researchers, elevated levels of lead were found in the blood of Newark children at a rate that's about three times higher than that of the state overall.

Mayor says bids to replace Flint's pipes 'extremely high'

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 06/21/16 8:43 PM

Plans to replace water lines in Flint may have hit another snag as officials sift through a number of bids that they say are just too high to replace the city's infrastructure. Mayor Karen Weaver issued a statement on June 21 saying that the city did not award bids to any contractors and they will review the bids further to see how the city will move forward with plans to replace pipes in Flint.

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